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at least, situated wherever we may be, in the country or out of it, shall deem ourselves *expatriated*.

A late voluminous writer, of whom we shall probably give a more particular account, has said, that "in Ulster there is a very strong *Republican party*, but which is over-awed by the superior numbers of the Roman Catholics, who are sincere friends to monarchical government." In this passage, there is abundance of error, however often it is repeated, with the addition, that "their leaders are well known;" that is a softer phrase for being *marked*! We who are neither leaders, nor led in politics, can only say, that we are *not* Republicans, although we have a strong predilection to the Republican part of the British Constitution. However speculatively and abstractly we may admire a Republican form of government, we, by no means,

think it suited to the present state of society in these kingdoms. It is neither fitted for the country, nor is the country suited to it. But although we shall ever advocate a purer representation of the people, we are not, on that account, to be supposed desirous of overturning the present order of things; and we must inform "travellers," that we are not by any means so near to Republicanism, as those who accuse us are to *absolute Monarchy*. Our general principle is, that Government is instituted for the welfare and well-being of the people, and that Governors should be made to know, and feel, the influence of this truth, by legitimate intercourse with the people; and our actuating principle, at the present hour, is, *IRISH CONCILIATION, and BRITISH CONSTITUTION*.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

From the 20th February to the 20th March, 1813.

THE weather for several weeks past has been dry, and favourable for the agricultural business of the season. In many of the dry, light soils, considerable progress has been made in sowing oats; and if no obstructing alteration takes place, we may expect to see the principal part of the spring labour accomplished, much earlier than it has been for several years back.

The wheat crops in general look well; and the oats that were sown in autumn, or the beginning of winter, have an encouraging appearance.

The use of iron ploughs seems to gain ground in the estimation of the more intelligent farmers. The mechanic who first introduced them exhibited one at last assizes, for the inspection of the gentlemen of Armagh; and the grand jury generously subscribed a sum of money as a reward for his ingenuity.

Grain and provisions keep pretty stationary for several weeks back, except *flesh meat*, which, from the unusual scarcity of fat cattle, is likely to be high this spring.

COMMERCIAL REPORT

THE depressed and disjunct state of our commerce is clearly evinced by the eagerness, or rather rashness, with which every fresh opening is embraced. A letter from Sir Home Popham raised a species of mania in the commercial world, which broke out in large and unadvised speculations to South America, and ended in loss to many, and ruin to some. In the rage once more to find an *El Dorado*, or a country of gold in South America, vast quantities of manufactures were hurried out to that country, without considering the limited means and want of inclination of the inhabitants to purchase. On the suspension of the Orders in Council last year, improvident exportations took place to the United States of North America, before it was known how that measure, unaccompanied with the relinquishment of the impressment of their seamen, would be taken by that country. War ensued; and many have to lament the effects of their rashness. On some former appearances of an open to the continent, the little rock of Heligoland was so overstocked with British merchandize, that besides losing a market,

many articles were destroyed for want of safe storage, and others ; forced into the continent, on some fallacious prospects, fell into the hands of Bonaparte's Douaniers, or custom-house officers, and were committed to the flames. Now, uninstructed by former dearly bought experience, but pressed by the difficulties of the times to try for a market for the contents of their overloaded ware-houses, they again rush out hastily and unadvisedly, it is feared, shipments for Hamburgh, while the issue of the spring's or summer's campaign is still so doubtful.

Little is doing in all articles connected with importations from the Baltic ; and on the arrival of the fleet from that quarter, they may be expected to fall considerably ; in the mean time, the dealers only purchase to keep up their stocks.

The trade with North America by neutral flags, and an indirect intercourse through Lisbon, appears likely to continue, so as to prevent American merchandize from rising to an exorbitant rate, although the prices may be expected to be considerably enhanced, from the additional charges attendant on the circuitous mode of conveyance. It is still doubtful whether flax-seed will be received in sufficient quantities, in time for sowing. Cotton may be expected to be in abundance ; that from North America will be likely to come higher, as it is to be subject to an additional duty of 1½d per lb. if brought in British vessels, and of 3d. if conveyed in neutrals.

Manufactures of cotton still, in many instances, continue to supersede the use of linen, although in the end, it is not cheaper, when the superior durability of the linen is taken into consideration. But in the general reduced finances of the people, and the difficulties they encounter to meet their domestic expenses, the present saving in purchasing an article which looks well for a time, though less useful from its deficiency in strength, becomes an object with many. To this cause may be principally attributed the preference given to cotton manufactures over the linen, in those instances in which strength is an object.

Another instance of the decreased means to meet increased expenditure appears in the practice now become so general, of requiring lawns to be made up for sale in half pieces ; and in some instances a demand for dividing the piece of linen into two is also coming into use. The Spaniards, owing to their depressed situation, have long required linen to be made up into pieces of seven yards long, to suit their limited means. A war of twenty years' continuance has reduced many in Great Britain and Ireland, who never thought of buying less than a piece, now in many instances, to ask for a half piece, or even a smaller quantity ; and assortments must be made to answer this contracted scale, and suited to the increasing poverty of the times : for though a few may draw high-prizes in the lottery of life, the community is becoming poorer.

The fall in the premium on guineas may still be expected to be only temporary. The price of guineas and dollars chiefly depends on the course of foreign exchange, and the demand for them to supply the expenses of war on the continent. If exchange should generally become favourable to Britain, there will be less inducement to export the guineas. But so long as a large British army remains on the continent, and if Sweden and Russia are to receive subsidies, the balance of remittances may be expected to be against England, and of course generally an unfavourable rate of exchange. A consequent demand for guineas, either illicitly for the purposes of trade, or with the connivance of government to suit their own purposes, will be required to remedy the loss by an unfavourable exchange. Extensive exportations of British manufactures and colonial produce to the continent, if they in the course of events should continue to be practicable, will in some measure counteract these causes, and produce a more favourable rate of exchange. If the trade with America had continued open, and had not met with interruptions, first from the Orders in Council, and now from actual war, the exchange on the continent would have been much more favourable to Britain : for the amount of American exports to the continent of Europe generally passed through London, and constituted a fund, not only for increasing the balance of remittances, and making the exchange in favour of London, but also greatly promoted the sales of British manufactures, as most of this property in passing through England was employed in purchasing manufactures to send out to America. Exchange on the continent became unfavourable, and this highly beneficial trade was lost by the impolicy of the Orders in Council preventing a free intercourse between the United States, and the continent of Europe.

Exchange in Belfast on London is again down to 6 and 6½ per cent. In the course of the month it fluctuated from 6¼ to 5¾ per cent.